

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 30-41 and 50-55 without disclaimer or prejudice. Claims 21, 22, and 25-29 remain pending in the current application.

1 – 20. (cancel)

21. (previously presented) A screw back out prevention device for use with cervical plates to inhibit bone screws from backing out, the prevention device comprising:

a bushing;

the bushing having an inner edge forming a gap through which a screw can be threaded;

at least one elastically-loaded pin;

at least one notch located in a head of the screw, the at least one elastically-loaded pin engages the at least one notch; and

the bushing resides between the head of the screw and the cervical plate such that the at least one elastically-loaded pin engages the screw when the screw is threaded to inhibit the screw from backing out.

22. (original) The screw back out prevention device according to claim 21, wherein the elastically-loaded pin engages at least one thread of the screw.

23. (cancel)

24. (cancel)

25. (original) The screw back out prevention device according to claim 21, wherein the at least one elastically-loaded pin comprises a plurality of elastically-loaded pins.

26. (original) The screw back out prevention device according to claim 21, further comprising at least one channel in the bushing corresponding to the at least one elastically-loaded pin, wherein a portion of the elastically-loaded pin resides in the at least one channel.

27. (previously presented) A screw back out prevention device for use with cervical plates to inhibit bone screws from backing out, the prevention device comprising:

a bushing;

the bushing having an inner edge forming a gap through which a screw can be threaded;

at least one elastically-loaded pin;

at least one channel in the bushing corresponding to the at least one elastically-loaded pin, wherein the elastically-loaded pin resides in the at least one channel;

at least one spring between the bushing and the at least one elastically-loaded pin; and

the bushing resides between the head of the screw and the cervical plate such that the at least one elastically-loaded pin engages the screw when the screw is threaded to inhibit the screw from backing out.

28. (original) The screw back out prevention device according to claim 27, wherein the at least one spring comprises a helical spring.

29. (original) The screw back out prevention device according to claim 27, wherein the elastically-loaded pin has elastic movement caused by at least one of pneumatics, magnetics, and shaped memory alloys.

30.-55 (cancel)